

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 340

To provide for the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2013

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization and Jobs Protection Act”.

7 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

8 In this Act:

1 (1) MAPS.—The term “maps” means the maps
2 entitled “Sealaska Land Entitlement Finalization”,
3 numbered 1 through 17 and dated October 17,
4 2012, and numbered 18 and dated December 21,
5 2012.

6 (2) SEALASKA.—The term “Sealaska” means
7 the Sealaska Corporation, a Regional Native Cor-
8 poration established under the Alaska Native Claims
9 Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

10 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior.

12 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
13 of Alaska.

14 **SEC. 3. FINALIZATION OF ENTITLEMENT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—If, not later than 90 days after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary receives
17 a corporate resolution adopted by the board of directors
18 of Sealaska agreeing to accept the conveyance of land de-
19 scribed in subsection (b) in accordance with this Act as
20 full and final satisfaction of the remaining land entitle-
21 ment of Sealaska under section 14(h) of the Alaska Native
22 Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)), the Secretary
23 shall—

24 (1) implement the provisions of this Act; and

12 (b) FINAL ENTITLEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the land described in subsection (a) shall consist of—

(B) a total of not more than 490 acres of Federal land for cemetery sites and historical places comprised of parcels that are applied for in accordance with section 5.

24 (2) DEDUCTION.—

19 (c) EFFECT OF ACCEPTANCE.—The resolution filed
20 by Sealaska in accordance with subsection (a) shall—
21 (1) be final and irrevocable; and
22 (2) without any further administrative action by
23 the Secretary, result in—
24 (A) the relinquishment of all existing selec-
25 tions made by Sealaska under subsection

1 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(8)); and
2

(B) the termination of all withdrawals by section 16 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1615), except to the extent a selection by a Village Corporation under subsections (b) and (d) of section 16 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1615) remains pending, until the date on which those selections are resolved.

11 (d) FAILURE To ACCEPT.—If Sealaska fails to file
12 the resolution in accordance with subsection (a)—

13 (1) the provisions of this Act shall cease to be
14 effective; and

22 (e) SCOPE OF LAW.—Except as provided in sub-
23 sections (d) and (f), this Act provides the exclusive author-
24 ity under which the remaining land entitlement of

1 Sealaska under section 14(h) of the Alaska Native Claims
2 Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)) may be fulfilled.

3 (f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act affects any land
4 that is—

5 (1) the subject of an application under sub-
6 section (h)(1) of section 14 of the Alaska Native
7 Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613) that is
8 pending on the date of enactment of this Act; and

9 (2) conveyed in accordance with that sub-
10 section.

11 **SEC. 4. CONVEYANCES TO SEALASKA.**

12 (a) INTERIM CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing
13 rights, subsections (c), (d), and (e), section 3(b), and sec-
14 tion 6(a), the Secretary shall complete the interim convey-
15 ance of the 18 parcels of Federal land comprising approxi-
16 mately 69,585 acres generally depicted on the maps by
17 the date that is 60 days after the date of receipt of the
18 resolution under section 3(a), subject to the Secretary
19 identifying and reserving, by the date that is 2 years after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, any easement that could
21 have been reserved in accordance with this Act prior to
22 the interim conveyance.

23 (b) WITHDRAWAL.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing
2 rights, the Federal land described in subsection (a)
3 is withdrawn from—

4 (A) all forms of appropriation under the
5 public land laws;

6 (B) location, entry, and patent under the
7 mining laws;

8 (C) disposition under laws relating to min-
9 eral or geothermal leasing; and

10 (D) selection under the Act of July 7,
11 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska State-
12 hood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public
13 Law 85–508).

14 (2) TERMINATION.—The withdrawal under
15 paragraph (1) shall remain in effect until—

16 (A) if Sealaska fails to file a resolution in
17 accordance with section 3(a), the date that is
18 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act;
19 or

20 (B) the date on which the Federal land is
21 conveyed under subsection (a).

22 (c) TREATMENT OF LAND CONVEYED.—Except as
23 otherwise provided in this Act, any land conveyed to
24 Sealaska under subsection (a) shall be—

1 (1) considered to be land conveyed by the Sec-
2 retary under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native
3 Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(8)); and

4 (2) subject to all laws (including regulations)
5 applicable to entitlements under section 14(h)(8) of
6 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
7 1613(h)(8)), including section 907(d) of the Alaska
8 National Interest Lands Conservation Act (43
9 U.S.C. 1636(d)).

10 (d) EASEMENTS.—

11 (1) PUBLIC EASEMENTS.—The deeds of convey-
12 ance for the land under subsection (a) shall be sub-
13 ject to the reservation of public easements under
14 section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settle-
15 ment Act (43 U.S.C. 1616(b)).

16 (2) CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—In the deeds of convey-
18 ance for the land under subsection (a), the Sec-
19 retary shall reserve a conservation easement to
20 protect the aquatic and riparian habitat extend-
21 ing 100 feet on each side of the anadromous
22 water bodies depicted as “100 Foot Conserva-
23 tion Easement” on the maps numbered 3, 4,
24 and 6.

15 (C) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of
16 Agriculture shall administer the conservation
17 easements described in subparagraph (A).

(B) that shall remain in effect for a 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

4 (4) KOSCUISKO ISLAND ROAD EASEMENT.—

12 (C) ROADS AND FACILITIES USE AGREEMENT.—In addition to the agreement under
13 section 6(b), the Secretary and Sealaska shall
14 enter into an agreement relating to the access,
15 use, maintenance, and improvement of the
16 roads and facilities under this paragraph.
17

1 granting the easement described in sub-
2 paragraph (B)(i).

3 (e) HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any land conveyed under
5 subsection (a) that is located outside a withdrawal
6 area designated under section 16(a) of the Alaska
7 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1615(a))
8 shall remain open and available to subsistence uses,
9 as that term is defined in section 803 of the Alaska
10 National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16
11 U.S.C. 3113), and noncommercial recreational hunt-
12 ing and fishing and other recreational uses by the
13 public under applicable law—

14 (A) without liability on the part of
15 Sealaska, except for willful acts, to any user as
16 a result of the use; and

17 (B) subject to—

18 (i) any reasonable restrictions that
19 may be imposed by Sealaska on the public
20 use—

21 (I) to ensure public safety;
22 (II) to minimize conflicts between
23 recreational and commercial uses;
24 (III) to protect cultural re-
25 sources;

1 (IV) to conduct scientific re-
2 search; or

3 (V) to provide environmental pro-
4 tection; and

(A) create an interest in any third party in
the land conveyed under subsection (a); or

20 SEC. 5. CEMETERY SITES AND HISTORICAL PLACES.

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
22 14(h)(1)(E) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
23 (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(1)(E)), Sealaska may submit applica-
24 tions for the conveyance under section 14(h)(1)(A) of the
25 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.

1 1613(h)(1)(A)) of not more than 76 cemetery sites and
2 historical places—

3 (1) that are listed in the document entitled
4 “Sealaska Cemetery Sites and Historical Places”
5 and dated October 17, 2012;

6 (2) that are cemetery sites and historical places
7 included in the report by Wilsey and Ham, Inc., en-
8 titled “1975 Native Cemetery and Historic Sites of
9 Southeast Alaska (Preliminary Report)” and dated
10 October 1975;

11 (3) for which Sealaska has not previously sub-
12 mitted an application; and

13 (4) that are not located within a conservation
14 system unit (as defined in section 102 of the Alaska
15 National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16
16 U.S.C. 3102)).

17 (b) PROCEDURE FOR EVALUATING APPLICATIONS.—

18 Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary
19 shall consider all applications submitted under this section
20 in accordance with the criteria and procedures set forth
21 in applicable regulations in effect as of the date of enact-
22 ment of this Act.

23 (c) CONVEYANCE.—The Secretary may convey ceme-
24 tery sites and historical places under this section that re-

1 sult in the conveyance of a total of approximately 490
2 acres of Federal land comprised of parcels that are—

3 (1) applied for in accordance with this section;

4 and

5 (2) subject to—

6 (A) valid existing rights;

7 (B) the public access provisions of sub-
8 section (g);

9 (C) the condition that the conveyance of
10 land for the site listed under subsection (a)(1)
11 as “Bay of Pillars Portage” is limited to 25
12 acres in T.60 S., R.72 E., Sec. 28, Copper
13 River Meridian; and

14 (D) the condition that any access to or use
15 of the cemetery sites and historical places shall
16 be consistent with the management plans for
17 adjacent public land, if the management plans
18 are more restrictive than the laws (including
19 regulations) applicable under subsection (i).

20 (d) TIMELINE.—No application for a cemetery site
21 or historical place may be submitted under subsection (a)
22 after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment
23 of this Act.

24 (e) CONSULTATION WITH RECOGNIZED TRIBAL EN-
25 TITY.—Sealaska shall—

1 (1) consult with any affected federally recog-
2 nized Indian tribe before submitting any application
3 for a cemetery site or historical place located within
4 the traditional territory of the Indian tribe; and

5 (2) include with each application described in
6 paragraph (1) a statement that the required con-
7 sultation was carried out in accordance with that
8 paragraph.

9 (f) SELECTION OF ADDITIONAL CEMETERY SITES.—

10 If Sealaska submits timely applications to the Secretary
11 in accordance with subsections (a), (d), and (e), for all
12 76 sites listed under subsection (a)(1), and the Secretary
13 rejects any of those applications in whole or in part—

14 (1) not later than 2 years after the date on
15 which the Secretary completes the conveyance of eli-
16 gible cemetery sites and historical places applied for
17 under subsection (a), and subject to subsection (e),
18 Sealaska may submit applications for the conveyance
19 under section 14 (h)(1)(A) of the Alaska Native
20 Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(1)(A)) of
21 additional cemetery sites that are not located in a
22 conservation system unit described in (a)(4), the
23 total acreage of which, together with the cemetery
24 sites and historical places previously conveyed by the

1 Secretary under subsection (c), shall not exceed 490
2 acres; and

3 (2) the Secretary shall—

4 (A) consider any applications for the con-
5 veyance of additional cemetery sites in accord-
6 ance with subsection (b); and

7 (B) if the applications are approved, pro-
8 vide for the conveyance of the sites in accord-
9 ance with subsection (c).

10 (g) PUBLIC ACCESS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
12 any land conveyed under this section shall be subject
13 to—

14 (A) the reservation of public easements
15 under section 17(b) of the Alaska Native
16 Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1616(b));

17 (B) public access across the conveyed land
18 in cases in which no reasonable alternative ac-
19 cess around the land is available, without liabil-
20 ity to Sealaska, except for willful acts, to any
21 user by reason of the use; and

22 (C) public access within 25 feet of any
23 Class I stream described in section 705(e) of
24 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conserva-
25 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 539d(e)) for noncommercial

1 recreational and subsistence fishing, without li-
2 ability to Sealaska, except for willful acts, to
3 any user by reason of the use.

4 (2) LIMITATIONS.—The public access and use
5 under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1)
6 shall be subject to—

7 (A) any reasonable restrictions that may
8 be imposed by Sealaska on the public access
9 and use—

10 (i) to ensure public safety;
11 (ii) to protect and conduct research on
12 the historic, archaeological, and cultural
13 resources of the conveyed land; or
14 (iii) to provide environmental protec-
15 tion;

16 (B) the condition that Sealaska post on
17 any applicable property, in accordance with
18 State law, notices of the restrictions on the
19 public access and use; and

20 (C) the condition that the public access
21 and use shall not be incompatible with or in
22 derogation of the values of the area as a ceme-
23 tery site or historical place, as provided in sec-
24 tion 2653.11 of title 43, Code of Federal Regu-
25 lations (or a successor regulation).

1 (3) EFFECT.—Access provided to any individual
2 or entity by paragraph (1) shall not—

3 (A) create an interest in any third party in
4 the land conveyed under this section; or

5 (B) provide standing to any third party in
6 any review of, or challenge to, any determina-
7 tion by Sealaska with respect to the manage-
8 ment or development of the land conveyed
9 under this section, except as against Sealaska
10 for the management of public access under
11 paragraph (2).

12 (h) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OR LOSS.—

13 (1) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER.—Notwith-
14 standing any other provision of law, Sealaska shall
15 not—

16 (A) alienate, transfer, assign, mortgage, or
17 pledge any cemetery site or historical place con-
18 veyed under this section to any person or entity
19 other than the United States; or

20 (B) permit development or improvement of
21 the cemetery site or historical place for any use
22 which is incompatible with, or is in derogation
23 of, the values of the area as a cemetery site or
24 historical place.

1 (2) PROHIBITION ON LOSS.—Notwithstanding
2 any other provision of law, any cemetery site or his-
3 torical place conveyed to Sealaska under this section
4 shall be exempt from—

5 (A) adverse possession and similar claims
6 based on estoppel;

7 (B) real property taxes by any govern-
8 mental entity;

9 (C) title 11 of the United States Code or
10 a successor law, any other insolvency or mora-
11 torium law, or any other law generally affecting
12 creditors' rights;

13 (D) judgments in any action at law or in
14 equity to recover sums owed or penalties in-
15 curred by Sealaska or any employee, officer, di-
16 rector, or shareholder of Sealaska; and

17 (E) involuntary distributions or convey-
18 ances to any person or entity other than the
19 United States related to the involuntary dis-
20 solution of Sealaska.

21 (i) TREATMENT OF LAND CONVEYED.—Except as
22 otherwise provided in this Act, any land conveyed to
23 Sealaska under this section shall be—

1 (1) considered land conveyed by the Secretary
2 under section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims
3 Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(1)); and

4 (2) subject to all laws (including regulations)
5 applicable to conveyances under section 14(h)(1) of
6 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
7 1613(h)(1)), including section 907(d) of the Alaska
8 National Interest Lands Conservation Act (43
9 U.S.C. 1636(d)).

10 **SEC. 6. MISCELLANEOUS.**

11 (a) **SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—**

12 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—On the conveyance of land
13 to Sealaska under section 4(a)—

14 (A) any guiding or outfitting special use
15 authorization issued by the Forest Service for
16 the use of the conveyed land shall terminate;
17 and

18 (B) as a condition of the conveyance and
19 consistent with section 14(g) of the Alaska Na-
20 tive Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
21 1613(g)), Sealaska shall allow the holder of the
22 special use authorization terminated under sub-
23 paragraph (A) to continue the authorized use,
24 subject to the terms and conditions that were in

1 the special use authorization issued by the For-
2 est Service, for—

- 3 (i) the remainder of the term of the
4 authorization; and
5 (ii) 1 additional consecutive 10-year
6 renewal period.

7 (2) NOTICE OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.—
8 Sealaska and any holder of a guiding or outfitting
9 authorization under this subsection shall have a mu-
10 tual obligation, subject to the guiding or outfitting
11 authorization, to inform the other party of any com-
12 mercial activities prior to engaging in the activities
13 on the land conveyed to Sealaska under section 4(a).

14 (3) NEGOTIATION OF NEW TERMS.—Nothing in
15 this subsection precludes Sealaska and the holder of
16 a guiding or outfitting authorization from negoti-
17 ating a new mutually agreeable guiding or outfitting
18 authorization.

19 (4) LIABILITY.—Neither Sealaska nor the
20 United States shall bear any liability, except for will-
21 ful acts of Sealaska or the United States, regarding
22 the use and occupancy of any land conveyed to
23 Sealaska under this Act, as provided in any outfit-
24 ting or guiding authorization under this subsection.

1 (b) ROADS AND FACILITIES.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
3 Agriculture and Sealaska shall negotiate in good faith to
4 develop a binding agreement—

5 (1) for the use of National Forest System roads
6 and related transportation facilities by Sealaska; and
7 (2) the use of Sealaska roads and related trans-
8 portation facilities by the Forest Service.

9 (c) TRADITIONAL TRADE AND MIGRATION ROUTE
10 DESIGNATIONS.—

11 (1) DESIGNATIONS.—

12 (A) THE INSIDE PASSAGE.—The route
13 from Yakutat to Dry Bay, as generally depicted
14 on the map entitled “Traditional Trade and Mi-
15 gration Route, Neix naax aan náx—The Inside
16 Passage” and dated October 17, 2012, is des-
17 ignated as “Neix naax aan náx” (“The Inside
18 Passage”).

19 (B) CANOE ROAD.—The route from the
20 Bay of Pillars to Port Camden, as generally de-
21 picted on the map entitled “Traditional Trade
22 and Migration Route, Yakwdeiyí—Canoe Road”
23 and dated October 17, 2012, is designated as
24 “Yakwdeiyí” (“Canoe Road”).

(C) THE PEOPLE'S ROAD.—The route from Portage Bay to Duncan Canal, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Traditional Trade and Migration Route, Lingít Deiyí—The People’s Road” and dated October 17, 2012, is designated “Lingít Deiyí” (“The People’s Road”).

16 (d) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act delays
18 the duty of the Secretary to convey land to—

23 (B) a Native Corporation under—

(ii) the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (43 U.S.C. 1611 note; Public Law 108-452).

(A) the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

13 (e) ESCROW FUNDS.—If Sealaska files the resolution
14 in accordance with section 3(a)—

20 (2) Sealaska shall have no right to any proceeds
21 (including interest) held pursuant to the escrow re-
22 quirements of section 2 of Public Law 94-204 (43
23 U.S.C. 1613 note) that were derived from land origi-
24 nally withdrawn for selection by section 16 of the

1 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
2 1615), but not conveyed.

3 (f) MAPS.—

4 (1) AVAILABILITY.—Each map referred to in
5 this Act shall be available in the appropriate offices
6 of the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture.

7 (2) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary of Agri-
8 culture may make any necessary correction to a cler-
9 ical or typographical error in a map referred to in
10 this Act.

11 **SEC. 7. CONSERVATION AREAS.**

12 (a) LUD II MANAGEMENT AREAS.—If Sealaska files
13 a resolution in accordance with section 3(a), section 508
14 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
15 (Public Law 96–487; 104 Stat. 4428) is amended by add-
16 ing at the end the following:

17 “(13) BAY OF PILLARS.—Certain land which
18 comprises approximately 21,106 acres, as generally
19 depicted on the map entitled ‘Bay of Pillars LUD II
20 Management Area—Proposed’ and dated October
21 17, 2012.

22 “(14) KUSHNEAHIN CREEK.—Certain land
23 which comprises approximately 36,624 acres, as gen-
24 erally depicted on the map entitled ‘Kushneahin

1 Creek LUD II Management Area—Proposed’ and
2 dated October 17, 2012.

3 “(15) NORTHERN PRINCE OF WALES.—Certain
4 land which comprises approximately 9,064 acres, as
5 generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Northern
6 Prince of Wales LUD II Management Area—Pro-
7 posed’ and dated October 17, 2012.

8 “(16) WESTERN KOSCIUSKO.—Certain land
9 which comprises approximately 7,786 acres, as gen-
10 erally depicted on the map entitled ‘Western Kos-
11 ciusko LUD II Management Area—Proposed’ and
12 dated October 17, 2012.

13 “(17) EASTERN KOSCIUSKO.—Certain land
14 which comprises approximately 1,664 acres, as gen-
15 erally depicted on the map entitled ‘Eastern Kos-
16 ciusko LUD II Management Area—Proposed’ and
17 dated October 17, 2012.

18 “(18) SARKAR LAKES.—Certain land which
19 comprises approximately 25,402 acres, as generally
20 depicted on the map entitled ‘Sarkar Lakes LUD II
21 Management Area—Proposed’ and dated October
22 17, 2012.

23 “(19) HONKER DIVIDE.—Certain land which
24 comprises approximately 15,584 acres, as generally
25 depicted on the map entitled ‘Honker Divide LUD

1 II Management Area—Proposed’ and dated October
2 17, 2012.

3 “(20) EEK LAKE AND SUKKWAN ISLAND.—Cer-
4 tain land which comprises approximately 34,873
5 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Eek
6 Lake and Sukkwan Island LUD II Management
7 Area—Proposed’ and dated October 17, 2012.”.

8 (b) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The designation of the con-
10 servation areas by paragraphs (13) through (20) of
11 section 508 of the Alaska National Interest Lands
12 Conservation Act (Public Law 96–487; 104 Stat.
13 4428) (as added by subsection (a)) (referred to in
14 this subsection as the “conservation areas”) is not
15 intended to lead to the creation of protective perim-
16 eters or buffer zones around the conservation areas.

17 (2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.—The fact that activi-
18 ties outside of the conservation areas are not con-
19 sistent with the purposes of the conservation areas
20 or can be seen or heard within the conservation
21 areas shall not preclude the activities or uses outside
22 the boundary of the conservation areas.

